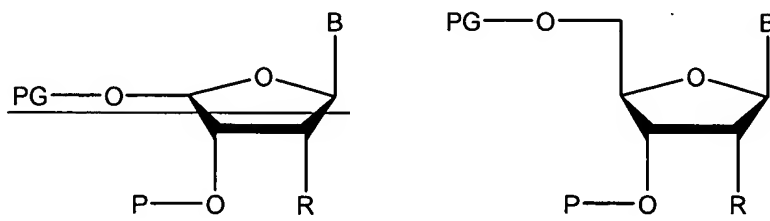


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

- 1-56. (Canceled)
57. (Currently Amended) A compound having a photoremovable protecting group covalently attached to a C-3' or C-5' oxygen atom, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a natural or ~~synthetic~~ unnatural nucleoside or a natural or ~~synthetic~~ unnatural nucleoside having an activated phosphorus group.
58. (Previously Presented) A compound of Claim 57, wherein said oxygen atom is a C-3' oxygen of a ribonucleoside phosphoramidite or a ribonucleoside H-phosphonate.
59. (Currently Amended) A compound of Claim 58, wherein said oxygen atom is a ~~C-3'~~ C-3' oxygen of a ~~ribonucleoside-deoxyribonucleotide~~ deoxyribonucleoside phosphoramidite or a deoxyribonucleoside H-phosphonate.
60. (Previously Presented) A compound of Claim 57, wherein said oxygen atom is a C-3' oxygen of a natural nucleoside phosphoramidite.
61. (Currently Amended) A compound of Claim 57, having the formula:



wherein

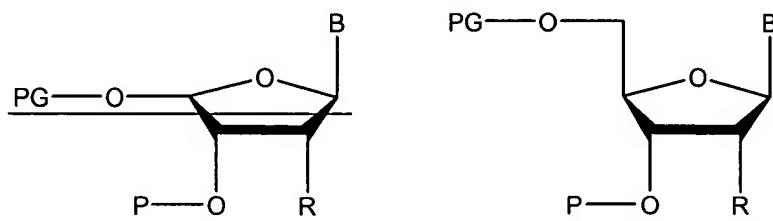
B is selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic adenine, natural or synthetic guanine, natural or synthetic thymine, natural or synthetic cytosine, and natural or synthetic uracil;

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, protected hydroxy, halogen and alkoxy;

P is an activated phosphorus group, and

PG is photoremovable ~~protected~~ protecting group selected from the group consisting of NVOC, MeNPOC, NPOC, ~~MenVOC~~ MeNVOC and ~~phenylmethoxycarbon~~ pyrenylmethyloxycarbonyl.

62. (Previously Presented) A compound of Claim 61, wherein R is hydrogen or protected hydroxy.
63. (Currently Amended) A compound of Claim 61, wherein P is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dialkyl-O-methylphosphoramidite ~~phosphoramidite~~, phosphochloridite, an H-phosphonate group and an N,N-dialkyl-O-(2-cyanoethyl)phosphoramidite ~~a 2-cyanoethylphosphoramidite~~ group.
64. (Previously Presented) A compound of Claim 61, wherein B is selected from the group consisting of adenine, thymine, uracil, cytosine and guanine.
65. (Currently Amended) A compound of Claim 61, wherein B is selected from the group consisting of adenine, thymine, uracil, cytosine and guanine, R is hydrogen or protected hydroxy, or alkoxy, P is a ~~2-cyanoethylphosphoramidite~~ an N,N-dialkyl-O-(2-cyanoethyl)phosphoramidite group.
66. (Currently Amended) A compound of Claim 57, having the formula:



wherein

B is selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic adenine, natural or synthetic guanine, natural or synthetic thymine, natural or synthetic cytosine, and natural or synthetic uracil;

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, protected hydroxy, halogen and alkoxy;

P is an activated phosphorus group, and

PG is photoremovable ~~protected~~ protecting group selected from the group consisting of NVOC, MeNPOC, NPOC, ~~MenVOC~~ MeNVOC and ~~phenylmethyloxycarbon~~ pyrenylmethyloxycarbonyl.

67. (Previously Presented) A compound of Claim 66, wherein R is hydrogen or protected hydroxy.
68. (Currently Amended) A compound of Claim 66, wherein P is N,N-dialkyl-O-methylphosphoramidite ~~phosphoramidite~~, or phosphochloridite, or an H-phosphonate group or a 2-cyanoethylphosphoramidite ~~an N,N-dialkyl-O-(2-cyanoethyl)phosphoramidite~~ group.
69. (Previously Presented) A compound of Claim 66, wherein B is selected from the group consisting of adenine, thymine, uracil, cytosine and guanine.
70. (Currently Amended) A compound of Claim 66, wherein B is selected from the group consisting of adenine, thymine, uracil, cytosine and guanine, R is hydrogen or protected hydroxy, or alkoxy, P is a 2-cyanoethylphosphoramidite ~~an N,N-dialkyl-O-(2-cyanoethyl)phosphoramidite~~ group.
71. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a compound of Claim 57, said method comprising attaching a photoremovable protecting group to the C-3' or C-5' oxygen atom of a natural or ~~synthetic~~ unnatural nucleoside and subsequently attaching an activated phosphorous group to the remaining C-3' or C-5' oxygen atom.

72. (Currently Amended) A method of Claim 71, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of natural nucleoside phosphoramidites and natural nucleoside H-phosphonates.
73. (Currently Amended) A method of Claim 71, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of natural ~~deoxribonucleoside~~ deoxyribonucleoside phosphoramidites.
74. (Canceled)